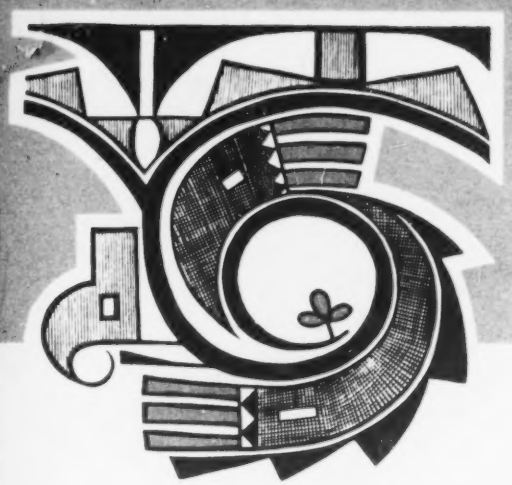
8/13/87 S 5578-2



New Mexico Labor Market Review

GARREY CARRUTHERS, GOVERNOR
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Paul M. Garcia, Secretary
Volume 16, No. 6, July 31, 1987
Prepared by
Economic Research and Analysis
P.O. Box 1928
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103
(505) 841-8645

As usually happens in June, New Mexico's unemployment rate rose significantly during the month, jumping from 8.5 to 8.9 percent. The large number of youth entering the labor force this time of year pushes the jobless rate upward, and this June's increase was in line with the normal pattern. With the first half of 1987 on paper, New Mexico's labor force estimates continue to reflect moderate improvement over 1986. The latest estimates for June show an unemployment rate more than a half percentage point below one year ago. U.S. labor force estimates also reflected improvement, with a 6.3 percent jobless rate this June versus a 7.3 percent rate one year ago.

New Mexico's industry employment estimates for June show the expected summertime increases in construction and in subsectors of retail trade and services affected by tourism. Conversely, the summer recess at educational institutions resulted in sizeable job losses in state and local government, educational services, and passenger transportation.

Mining employment grew by 200 jobs during the month, with the gain split evenly between coal and oil & gas extraction. With the exception of a small employment upturn at the end of 1986, employment in oil & gas has remained relatively unchanged since late summer of last year. This, of course, followed the unprecedented downturn in oil prices in early 1986 which resulted in the industry losing over 5,000 jobs during the first six months of the year. Approximately 400 jobs were added during June in manufacturing as the transportation equipment, electronic equipment, and apparel sectors all increased payrolls.

Total nonagricultural wage & salary employment in New Mexico has grown by 9,300 or 1.8 percent over the last twelve months. This gain largely reflects strength in trade and services, and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing. Services employment grew by 4,900 over the year, with gains in such areas as lodging places, business services, and health facilities. In trade, notable growth has occurred in restaurants, general merchandise, and miscellaneous retail (includes businesses such as drug and specialty stores). The 800 additional jobs in manufacturing were largely concentrated in the areas of transportation equipment, lumber, and apparel manufacturing. Unfortunately, some areas of manufacturing have lost jobs since last June, including electrical equipment and machinery. Weakness also continues to be evident in mining, construction, and communications & utilities. Payrolls in all three industries are between 600 and 1,000 below the level of one year ago.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Jun. 1987	May 1987	Jun. 1986	May 1987	Jun. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	681,200	678,400	678,900	+2,800	+2,300
Employment	620,700	620,700	613,900	0	+6,800
Unemployment	60,500	57,700	65,000	+2,800	-4,500
Rate	8.9%	8.5%	9.6%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM JUN 1987	REVISED MAY 1987	REVISED JUN 1986	JUN CHANGE FROM MAY 1987	JUN CHANGE FROM JUN 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	537,700	535,300	528,400	2,400	9,300
MINING	14,900	14,700	15,500	200	-600
Metal Mining	2,000	2,000	2,100	0	-100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,000	3,900	4,200	100	-200
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,900	8,800	9,200	100	-300
CONSTRUCTION	35,600	34,800	36,600	800	-1,000
MANUFACTURING	38,600	38,200	37,800	400	800
DURABLE GOODS	25,200	24,900	24,800	300	400
Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,300	2,700	0	200
Machinery(except electric)	2,500	2,500	2,600	0	-100
Elec & Electronic Equip	4,300	4,200	4,700	100	-400
Transportation Equipment	4,700	4,600	4,200	100	500
Other Durable Goods	10,800	10,700	10,600	100	200
NONDURABLE GOODS	13,400	13,300	13,000	100	400
Food & Kindred Products	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
Textile & Apparel	2,600	2,500	2,400	100	200
Other Nondurable Goods	6,600	6,600	6,500	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,100	28,700	28,800	-600	-700
TRANSPORTATION	12,100	12,800	12,200	-700	-100
Railroad Transportation	2,100	2,100	2,400	0	-300
Trucking & Warehousing	6,000	5,900	6,000	100	0
Other Transportation	4,000	4,800	3,800	-800	200
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	16,000	15,900	16,600	100	-600
Communication	6,700	6,700	6,900	0	-200
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	9,300	9,200	9,700	100	-400
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	130,700	128,900	127,600	1,800	3,100
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,700	22,400	22,700	300	0
Durable Goods	13,700	13,500	13,400	200	300
Nondurable Goods	9,000	8,900	9,300	100	-300
RETAIL TRADE	108,000	106,500	104,900	1,500	3,100
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,700	4,600	4,500	100	200
General Merchandise Stores	12,400	12,400	11,600	0	800
Food Stores	15,600	15,700	15,400	-100	200
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,500	13,300	13,200	200	300
Apparel & Accessories	5,400	5,300	5,500	100	-100
Furniture & Furnishing	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	39,500	38,500	38,600	1,000	900
Miscellaneous Retail	12,400	12,200	11,700	200	700
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,400	27,300	26,900	100	500
Banking	8,000	8,000	8,100	0	-100
Insurance Carriers	3,800	3,800	3,600	0	200
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100
Real Estate	6,500	6,400	6,500	100	0
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,100	6,100	5,800	0	300
SERVICES	124,300	122,100	119,400	2,200	4,900
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	12,800	12,400	11,900	400	900
Personal Services	6,000	6,000	5,800	0	200
Business Services	29,100	28,800	27,900	300	1,200
Health Services	30,000	29,800	29,100	200	900
Legal Services	4,200	4,100	4,100	100	100
Educational Services	4,000	5,200	4,000	-1,200	0
Social Services	6,300	6,300	6,900	0	-600
Membership Organizations	8,500	6,800	7,300	1,700	1,200
Other Services	23,400	22,700	22,400	700	1,000
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	138,100	140,600	135,800	-2,500	2,300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	31,700	31,200	30,500	500	1,200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	106,400	109,400	105,300	-3,000	1,000
State Government 2/	47,300	49,300	47,800	-2,000	-500
Local Government	59,100	60,100	57,500	-1,000	1,600

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

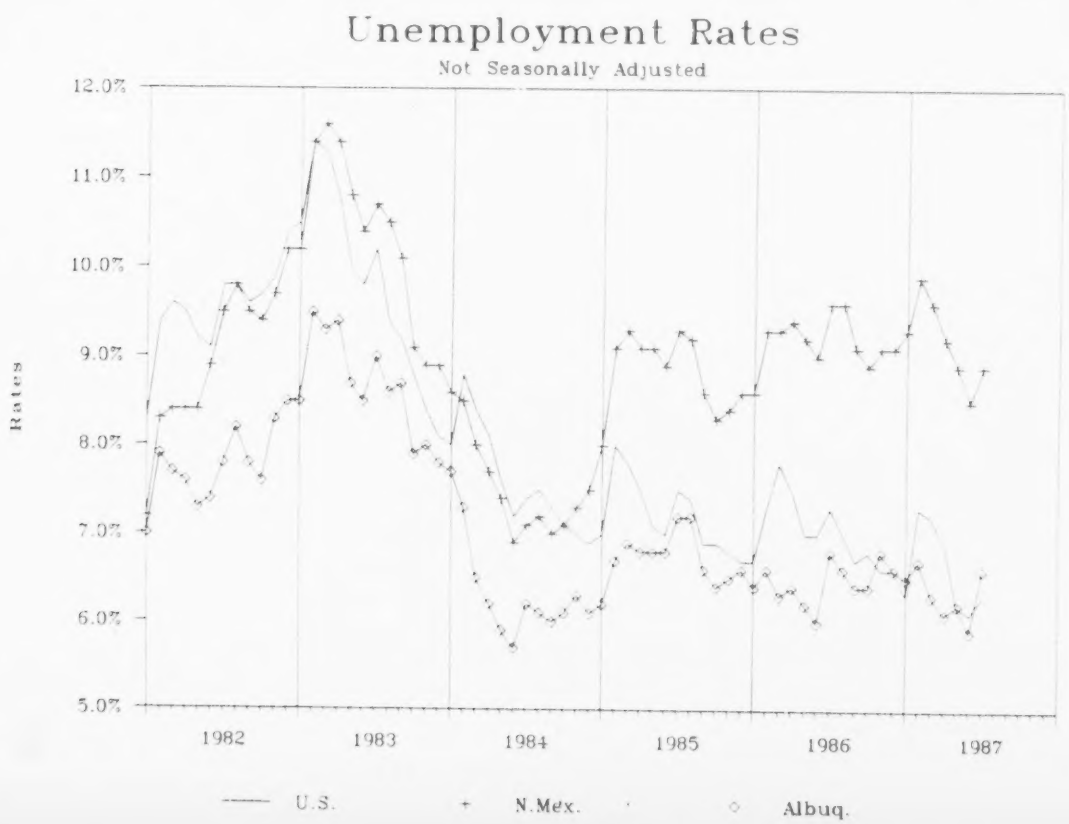
ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

According to preliminary labor force estimates, unemployment rose sharply in the Albuquerque area between May and June. The number of people unemployed rose by 1,700 during the period, which is slightly more than the normal seasonal expectation. The end of the school term for public and private schools and the university normally generates layoffs of large numbers of non-contract staff, and related layoffs of private sector workers such as school bus drivers also occur. June's unemployment rate stands at 6.6% of the labor force, up from 5.9% in May but nearly unchanged from the 6.7% rate of one year ago.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Albuquerque increased by a modest 400 jobs in June. This is just barely more than the normal May-to-June movement. Additional jobs in trade and services more than offset lost government sector jobs. Construction, which normally adds workers in June, merely held steady this June. In the trade division, eating & drinking places scored a greater-than-normal seasonal advance. In the services division, business services was the leading job gainer. The decline in government employment pertained almost entirely to educational establishments.

There are now 6,000 more nonagricultural payroll jobs in the Albuquerque area than there were one year ago. Services, led by business services, health services, and other services, accounted for about one-half the increase. Trade contributed more than one-fourth the over-the-year gain, as eating & drinking places, miscellaneous retail stores, building materials & mobile home dealers, and durable goods wholesale trade all recorded solid additions to their payrolls. Manufacturing employment is slightly below the year-ago level, primarily because of job losses in food, fabricated metal, and stone, clay, glass, & concrete. Construction is well below its June 1986 level because of weakness in the special trades sector; employment in heavy construction (road and bridge work) is actually higher than a year ago.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	June 1987	May 1987	June 1986	May 1987	June 1986
Civilian Labor Force	257,700	258,200	255,000	- 500	+2,700
Employment	240,800	243,000	237,800	-2,200	+3,000
Unemployment	16,900	15,200	17,200	+1,700	- 300
Rate	6.6%	5.9%	6.7%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM JUNE 1987	REVISED MAY 1987	REVISED JUNE 1986	JUNE CHANGE FROM MAY 1987	JUNE CHANGE FROM JUNE 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	232,500	232,100	226,500	400	6,000
MINING	200	200	200	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	17,200	17,200	17,600	0	-400
MANUFACTURING	19,700	19,600	19,800	100	-100
Durable Goods	14,100	14,000	14,100	100	0
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	-100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,300	12,300	12,200	0	100
Transportation	6,000	6,000	5,800	0	200
Communication	3,700	3,700	3,800	0	-100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	60,100	59,600	58,400	500	1,700
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,400	14,300	14,200	100	200
Durable Goods	9,800	9,800	9,500	0	300
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,500	4,700	100	-100
RETAIL TRADE	45,700	45,300	44,200	400	1,500
General Merchandise Stores	4,900	4,900	4,700	0	200
Food Stores	5,000	5,000	4,800	0	200
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,900	4,900	5,000	0	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	17,900	17,600	17,400	300	500
Other Retail Trade	13,000	12,900	12,300	100	700
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	15,000	14,900	14,300	100	700
Banking	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	100
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,300	4,300	4,000	0	300
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,500	7,400	7,200	100	300
SERVICES	63,700	63,200	60,700	500	3,000
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	4,100	4,100	3,700	0	400
Personal Services	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	100
Business Services	20,700	20,300	19,900	400	800
Health Services	14,600	14,500	13,900	100	700
Social Services	3,000	3,000	2,700	0	300
Membership Organizations	1,800	1,700	2,000	100	-200
Other Services	16,300	16,400	15,400	-100	900
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	44,300	45,100	43,300	-800	1,000
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,400	13,300	12,900	100	500
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	30,900	31,800	30,400	-900	500
State Government	10,900	12,000	11,300	-1,100	-400
Local Government	20,000	19,800	19,100	200	900

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM JUN 1987	REVISED MAY 1987	REVISED JUN 1986	JUN CHANGE FROM MAY 1987	JUN CHANGE FROM JUN 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	40,100	40,300	39,350	-200	750
MINING	50	50	100	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0
MANUFACTURING	3,150	3,200	3,150	-50	0
Durable Goods	1,250	1,300	1,250	-50	0
Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,200	1,350	1,150	-150	50
Transportation	350	500	350	-150	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	850	850	800	0	50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	7,750	7,750	7,750	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	800	800	850	0	-50
RETAIL TRADE	6,950	6,950	6,900	0	50
General Merchandise Stores	850	850	850	0	0
Food Stores	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	900	900	900	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0
Other Retail Trade	1,450	1,450	1,450	0	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,650	1,600	1,600	50	50
SERVICES	6,200	5,950	5,500	250	700
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	800	750	550	50	250
Business Services	1,250	1,200	1,000	50	250
Health Services	1,750	1,750	1,600	0	150
Social Services	300	250	250	50	50
Other Services	2,100	2,000	2,100	100	0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17,300	17,600	17,300	-300	0
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,500	4,400	4,400	100	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,800	13,200	12,900	-400	-100
State Government	7,600	7,900	7,800	-300	-200
Local Government	5,200	5,300	5,100	-100	100

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM JUN 1987	REVISED MAY 1987	REVISED JUN 1986	JUN CHANGE FROM MAY 1987	JUN CHANGE FROM JUN 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	55,550	54,700	54,200	850	1,350
MINING	100	100	100	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3,400	3,400	3,300	0	100
MANUFACTURING	1,600	1,600	1,650	0	-50
Durable Goods	1,000	1,000	1,050	0	-50
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,150	1,200	1,250	-50	-100
Transportation	400	450	400	-50	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	750	750	850	0	-100
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11,100	10,800	10,250	300	850
WHOLESALE TRADE	700	700	700	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	10,400	10,100	9,550	300	850
General Merchandise Stores	950	950	950	0	0
Food Stores	1,950	1,850	1,300	100	650
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	800	800	800	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	4,100	3,900	3,900	200	200
Other Retail Trade	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
SERVICES	14,300	13,900	13,950	400	350
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	2,100	2,000	1,950	100	150
Business Services	3,100	3,100	3,100	0	0
Health Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0
Social Services	600	600	600	0	0
Other Services	5,500	5,200	5,300	300	200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21,700	21,500	21,600	200	100
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	20,100	19,900	20,000	200	100
State Government 3/	16,200	16,000	16,200	200	0
Local Government	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	100

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS
Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	JUN 1987	MAY 1987	JUN 1986	JUN 1987	MAY 1987	JUN 1986	JUN 1987	MAY 1987	JUN 1986
MINING	$467.53	$477.41	$526.03	40.2	40.7	39.7	11.63	11.73	13.25
CONSTRUCTION	$423.22	$410.70	$388.05	38.3	38.6	36.3	11.05	10.64	10.69
MANUFACTURING	$348.96	$355.47	$347.81	39.7	41.0	39.3	8.79	8.67	8.85
Durable Goods	$360.64	$369.15	$361.89	39.5	41.2	39.9	9.13	8.96	9.07
Nondurable Goods	$318.38	$324.80	$315.78	39.6	40.6	38.0	8.04	8.00	8.31
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$612.36	$615.93	$504.58	42.0	41.9	44.3	14.58	14.70	11.39
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$224.07	$223.77	$222.77	33.0	33.7	32.1	6.79	6.64	6.94
Wholesale Trade	$404.61	$397.80	$389.47	40.3	39.9	39.5	10.04	9.97	9.86
Retail Trade	$190.52	$191.10	$190.95	31.7	32.5	30.7	6.01	5.88	6.22
BANKING	$231.25	$226.31	$232.93	38.8	38.1	40.3	5.96	5.94	5.78
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	JUN 1987	MAY 1987	JUN 1986	JUN 1987	MAY 1987	JUN 1986	JUN 1987	MAY 1987	JUN 1986
MANUFACTURING	$367.77	$372.67	$347.21	41.0	41.5	39.1	8.97	8.98	8.88
Durable Goods	$379.49	$387.73	$363.26	40.2	40.9	39.7	9.44	9.48	9.15
Nondurable Goods	$334.80	$328.54	$295.26	43.2	43.4	37.0	7.75	7.57	7.98

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

AREA ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

STATEWIDE: New Mexico has received $612,800 from the U.S. Department of Labor as part of $59.3 million allocated nationwide for training and employment services and housing assistance for migrant and seasonal farm workers. The funds will be used to offer training and supportive services to farm workers who seek alternative job opportunities. New Mexico's funds will be administered by Tierra Del Sol Housing Corp. in Las Cruces and the Home Education Livelihood Program, Inc. in Albuquerque. New Mexico is one of 14 states in competition for the $55 million US West research facility. The new facility will provide employment for 1,500 to 3,000 people with an annual payroll of $200 million a year. US West is expected to announce its decision on the location of the facility in September.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA: J.C. Penney's telephone sales center has increased its work force by over 150 employees, bringing the total work force at the Rio Rancho center to 500; Penney's telecommunications network is the second largest in the United States. Hensley Group Ltd. has built a three-story office complex on Second Street just north of Osuna Road. The $1.7 million, 32,000-square-foot building is called Atrium North. Blueher Lumber Co. is planning to build a drive-through hardware store near Taylor Ranch. Customers will drive through the building and have their orders filled and loaded into their vehicles.

ALAMOGORDO AREA: Eaton-Foster Contracting Inc. of El Paso was awarded a $1.1 million contract to construct a road tying U.S. 70 and 54 west of Alamogordo. El Paso Sand and Gravel Company was awarded a $1 million contract to build a four-mile access road to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) Laser Test Facility near Orogrande. The road construction is expected to employ 50 workers. Morgan Portable Buildings of Raton was awarded a $100,000 contract to build a 6,000-square-foot structure for the SDI project.

BELEN / LOS LUNAS AREA: At least five new businesses, two of them fast food restaurants, are either under construction or proposed for location in Los Lunas. The activity has been spurred by the $4 million widening of Main Street which was recently completed.

CARLSBAD / ARTESIA AREA: Two local potash mines have closed for maintenance. Lundberg Industries Inc. began its month-long maintenance shutdown in early July, resulting in the layoff of 300 potash miners. Western Ag Minerals ceased its mining operations for four weeks on July 31, affecting approximately 300 workers. A.C. Houston Lumber Co. announced the closure of its retail facility in Carlsbad, meaning the layoff of 15 employees.

GRANTS AREA: A $21 million uranium mill tailings cleanup project is underway at the old Phillips United Nuclear mine site near Ambrosia Lake. The project is one of 24 such sites across the country that the U.S. Department of Energy is currently authorized to clean up. About 2.6 million tons of tailings covering 111 acres will be excavated and then buried under a layer of soil and rock. The project should be completed by 1990.

GALLUP AREA: Giant Industries Inc., a Phoenix-based gasoline refiner , has opened a combination truck-and-auto service center and shopping mall on I-40 about 17 miles east of Gallup. The 28,000-square-foot mall will include a 275-seat restaurant. The $9 million travel center employs about 200 people.

HOBBS / LOVINGTON AREA: Amoco Production Company officials have announced plans to consolidate the company's five district offices in the Permian Basin into two offices in Odessa and Brownfield, Texas. The consolidation will mean the transfer of 30 of the 50 employees in Amoco's Hobbs office. Rich Meat Service in Hobbs recently completed its 6,000-square-foot plant expansion, and, as a result, the firm increased its payroll from 39 to 57 workers. Rotary oil drilling activity in the Permian Basin is on the upswing according to rig tallies by Hughes Tool Company. Figures for July show 132 rigs in operation in the Basin, compared with 90 rigs in the same week in 1986.

LAS CRUCES AREA: Developer C.B. Smith and Sons recently held grand opening ceremonies for Arroyo Plaza, a $2.5 million shopping center on East Lohman Ave. in Las Cruces. The center, which opened earlier this year, is approximately 85 percent occupied. Tricolor, Inc., a bathroom scale manufacturer with facilities in Las Cruces and in Ireland and England, is doubling its area warehouse and assembly facilities. The firm currently employs 26 full-time employees in Las Cruces. The area's agricultural activity in July centered around the onion and cabbage harvest, and market prices for both crops were characterized as "very good". Prices for cucumbers were poor, however, and some farmers did not harvest their crops.

ROSWELL AREA: An Oklahoma development firm, PRODEK Inc., has announced plans to construct a $1.5 million hydroelectric power plant at Sumner Lake Dam beginning in early 1988. The project is one of eight similar projects in four states planned by PRODEK.

SILVER CITY AREA: Phelps Dodge Corporation is firming up engineering studies for a major expansion of its Tyrone solvent extraction-electrowinning facility which would increase annual production from about 40,000 to 55,000 tons. The increase would make the plant the nation's largest.

SOCORRO AREA: The Stallion Site on the White Sands Missile Range southeast of Socorro was chosen by the U.S. Army as the location to test a new air defense artillery system, named Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD). Hughes Aircraft, British Aerospace, LTV, and Martin Marietta have all built FAAD weapons which will be tested at Stallion over the next several months. Work on the new $4.8 million middle school in Socorro is almost completed, and the structure will be ready for the upcoming fall semester.

SUPERCOLLIDER

Much has been written lately about a thing called the Supercollider. Although it sounds like an amusement park ride, it is one of the biggest projects the U.S. Department of Energy has ever attempted. About half of the states in the country are competing for the project. Governor Carruthers called a special legislative session in July to assure the selection committee that New Mexico will donate approximately 16,000 acres in the Estancia Basin to construct the project.

What does a concrete tunnel an average of 99 feet deep, 53 miles in circumference, built at a cost of $4.6 billion mean to the New Mexico economy? After a few 0s behind a number, many of us tend to loose track of what each of those 0s mean. If the money which will be spent on the Supercollider were divided equally among each person in the state, each of us would receive over $3,000. Or put another way, the project will cost approximately twice the annual state budget for New Mexico. In terms of employment opportunities, it should produce some 4,500 jobs during construction and at least 2,500 permanent positions.

If New Mexico is selected, the Estancia Basin would be the site of the largest endeavor of its kind in the world. The geophysical and geotechnical aspects of the basin, as well as the infrastructure of the area, make it a good candidate for the site. With the addition of the Supercollider, New Mexico would boast one of the largest scientific communities in the country.

Using the Supercollider, scientists will be able to examine the atom more closely than ever before. They feel that it is just as important to understand where we have been through the exploration of inner space, as it is to learn where we are going through the exploration of outer space. Scientists hope to add to or validate the big bang theory using the Supercollider facilities.

By July of next year, the Department of Energy is expected to announce which location is favored, and testing and research at the site will be conducted through the remainder of 1988. The final site selection for the Supercollider could be announced by mid-1989, and construction will take 5 to 6 years to complete.

****

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

	Jun. 1987	May 1987	Jun. 1986	Percent Change May'87-Jun.'87	Percent Change Jun.'86-Jun.'87
CPI-U	340.1	338.7	327.9	+0.4%	+3.7%
CPI-W	334.9	333.4	323.0	+0.4%	+3.7%

Index Base Year 1967 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY JUNE 1987				REVISED MAY 1987				REVISED JUNE 1986			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	681,198	620,748	60,450	8.9%	678,387	620,732	57,655	8.5%	678,816	613,863	64,953	9.6%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	257,685	240,775	16,910	6.6%	258,218	243,035	15,183	5.9%	255,064	237,825	17,239	6.8%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	56,337	52,049	4,288	7.6%	57,055	52,998	4,057	7.1%	55,243	50,804	4,439	8.0%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	67,026	63,234	3,792	5.7%	65,663	61,970	3,693	5.6%	65,166	61,738	3,428	5.3%
Catron	1,181	1,066	115	9.7%	1,127	1,006	121	10.7%	1,103	994	109	9.9%
Chaves	22,462	20,519	1,943	8.7%	22,450	20,585	1,865	8.3%	22,568	20,473	2,095	9.3%
Cibola	9,348	7,982	1,366	14.6%	8,853	7,654	1,199	13.5%	8,886	7,087	1,799	20.2%
Colfax	7,387	6,580	807	10.9%	6,736	5,893	843	12.5%	7,633	6,677	956	12.5%
Curry	17,131	15,882	1,249	7.3%	17,069	15,833	1,236	7.2%	17,237	16,153	1,084	6.3%
De Baca	945	854	91	9.6%	921	836	85	9.2%	956	872	84	8.8%
Eddy	21,285	18,672	2,613	12.3%	21,532	18,873	2,659	12.3%	22,854	19,663	3,191	14.0%
Grant	9,747	8,809	938	9.6%	9,882	8,926	956	9.7%	9,714	8,587	1,127	11.6%
Guadalupe	1,661	1,401	260	15.7%	1,614	1,350	264	16.4%	1,640	1,432	208	12.7%
Harding	466	418	48	10.3%	473	433	40	8.5%	479	430	49	10.2%
Hidalgo	2,452	2,311	141	5.8%	2,389	2,266	123	5.1%	2,551	2,407	144	5.6%
Lea	23,156	20,607	2,549	11.0%	23,097	20,586	2,511	10.9%	25,518	21,608	3,910	15.3%
Lincoln	7,971	7,523	448	5.6%	7,237	6,772	465	6.4%	7,914	7,432	482	6.1%
Luna	5,693	4,825	868	15.2%	5,747	4,897	850	14.8%	5,614	4,708	906	16.1%
McKinley	17,080	14,824	2,256	13.2%	16,647	14,717	1,930	11.6%	17,558	15,253	2,305	13.1%
Mora	1,234	824	410	33.2%	1,179	766	413	35.0%	1,329	828	501	37.7%
Otero	17,717	16,327	1,390	7.8%	18,104	16,775	1,329	7.3%	17,836	16,431	1,405	7.9%
Quay	4,632	4,263	369	8.0%	4,493	4,140	353	7.9%	4,641	4,227	414	8.9%
Rio Arriba	14,135	11,518	2,617	18.5%	13,823	11,119	2,704	19.6%	12,959	10,283	2,676	20.6%
Roosevelt	7,099	6,697	402	5.7%	7,304	6,926	378	5.2%	6,911	6,542	369	5.3%
Sandoval	23,059	21,049	2,010	8.7%	23,158	21,334	1,824	7.9%	22,552	20,615	1,937	8.6%
San Juan	34,956	29,306	5,650	16.2%	34,547	29,186	5,361	15.5%	36,418	29,560	6,858	18.8%
San Miguel	10,168	8,858	1,310	12.9%	9,976	8,699	1,277	12.8%	9,775	8,506	1,269	13.0%
Sierra	2,652	2,462	190	7.2%	2,626	2,429	197	7.5%	2,464	2,305	159	6.5%
Socorro	5,705	5,140	565	9.9%	5,746	5,202	544	9.5%	5,765	5,229	536	9.3%
Taos	10,133	7,296	2,837	28.0%	10,251	6,998	3,253	31.7%	10,588	7,387	3,201	30.2%
Torrance	3,390	3,061	329	9.7%	3,228	2,910	318	9.9%	3,250	2,867	383	11.8%
Union	2,032	1,897	135	6.6%	1,918	1,783	135	7.0%	2,196	2,000	196	8.9%
Valencia	15,273	13,719	1,554	10.2%	15,324	13,835	1,489	9.7%	14,434	12,940	1,494	10.4%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

New Mexico Department of Labor
Economic Research and Analysis (CC 6097)
P.O. Box 1928
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

JOB SERVICE

U.S. MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Congressional Info. Service
SRI
4520 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

New Mexico
Unemployment Rates by Area
June 1987

Legend

- 5.6 to 8
- 8 to 10
- 10 to 15
- 15 to 34.2